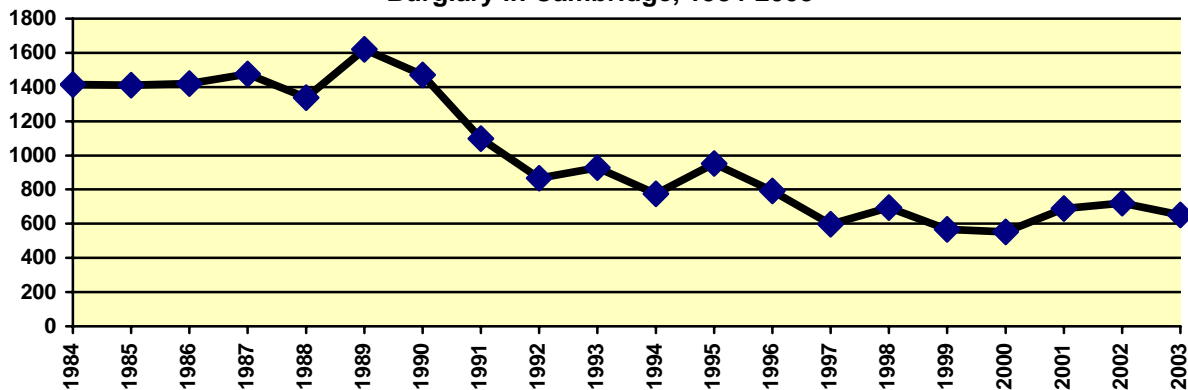


BURGLARY

Burglary describes the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary. Burglary attempts are included in the total.

Twenty Year Review:
Burglary in Cambridge, 1984-2003



720 reported in 2002 • 651 reported in 2003

Over the past twenty years, burglary in Cambridge has decreased by almost 54%. Burglary crimes peaked in the 1980's and then dropped dramatically in the 1990's. A small increase was reported between 2000 and 2002, but overall residential and commercial burglary decreased almost 10% in 2003.

Burglary is categorized as a more serious crime than larceny since it involves the use of force to enter a business or residence. Perpetrators employ various techniques to enter residences or businesses. Because burglars need to pull off their heist quickly,

break-ins are often only unsuccessful "attempts," in which no entry is made.

	2002	2003	% Change
Commercial Burglary	198	134	-32%
Residential Burglary	522	517	-1%
Total	720	651	-10%

Burglars often fall into two types. The "amateur" burglars most likely smash windows and enter unoccupied

buildings. "Professional" burglars, alternatively, are more sophisticated in their methods, often prying open door and disabling alarms to steal higher-priced items.

For the purposes of analysis, burglary is divided into two main categories: *commercial* and *residential*.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

A commercial burglary, more commonly referred to as a *commercial break*, is an unlawful entry into a commercial establishment, including business, government, religious or retail establishments. Since 2002, there has been a 32% decrease in commercial burglaries in Cambridge.

A wide variety of establishment types are targeted for commercial burglary using an array of methods. Most breaks fall into one of the following categories:

Smash & Grab burglaries target display windows along major routes. The burglar runs or drives up, smashes the window, steals valuables from the immediate area of the window, and runs off. The entire enterprise may take less than a minute.

Retail burglars pry or smash their way into stores, and other locations with cash registers on the premises. They are hoping for cash left in the register or the safe and may grab some cigarettes or a stack of lottery tickets on the way out. All of these incidents occurred in the first nine months of 2003, and entry was commonly gained through a rear door or window that was left unlocked or was broken open.

Restaurant/Bar burglars often cross multiple jurisdictions, breaking into similar franchises, looking for safes. Indeed, safes and registers were targeted in a majority of the cases in 2003.

Business burglars enter real estate offices, law firms, technology companies, and other offices, looking for laptop computers and other expensive equipment. The majority of these incidents were repeat locations in which an intruder gained entrance into locked offices and stole computer equipment.

TYPE OF PREMISE	2002	2003
Business Offices	53	24
Bar/Restaurant	34	23
Retail Establishments	32	9
Church	1	6
School	12	5
Laundromat/Cleaners	3	5
Industrial/Construction	11	3
Other: includes cafes, convenience stores, and other miscellaneous establishments.	52	59
TOTAL	198	134

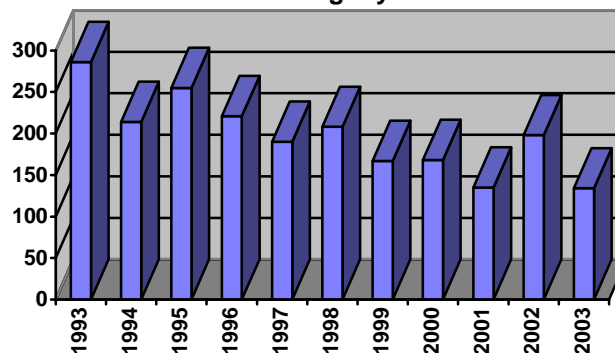
Construction Site thieves are a special breed of burglars who know how to select, steal, and sell expensive power tools, building supplies, and heavy equipment. They are often in the business themselves, and may have done some sub-contract work on the site that they target.

Safe Crackers are a more professional type of burglar in the City. In these instances, the perpetrators are entering businesses with high cash intake, such as restaurants and bars, and take cash in most instances.

Church burglars are usually homeless individuals with substance abuse problems. They enter lightly secured houses of worship, looking for petty cash and easily fenced items. Two of these incidents were suspected inside jobs; a laptop was taken in one instance and cash and checks given in donation were taken in the other.

School burglars are generally juveniles, breaking into their own schools to vandalize or to steal computers and other expensive goods they see every day. These incidents commonly occurred on the weekends and targeted locker rooms.

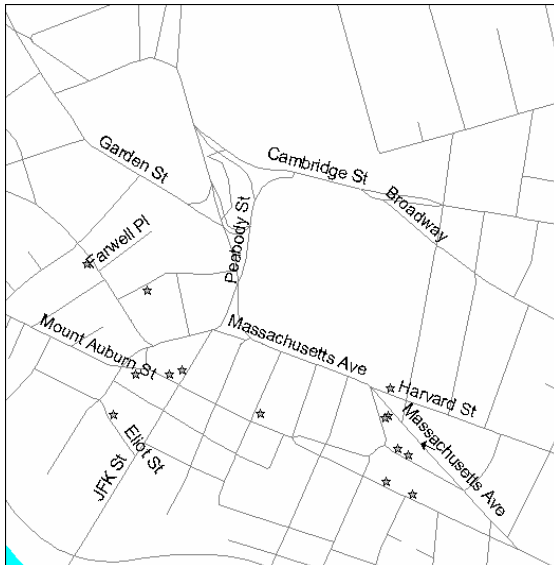
Commercial Burglary 1993-2003



GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES

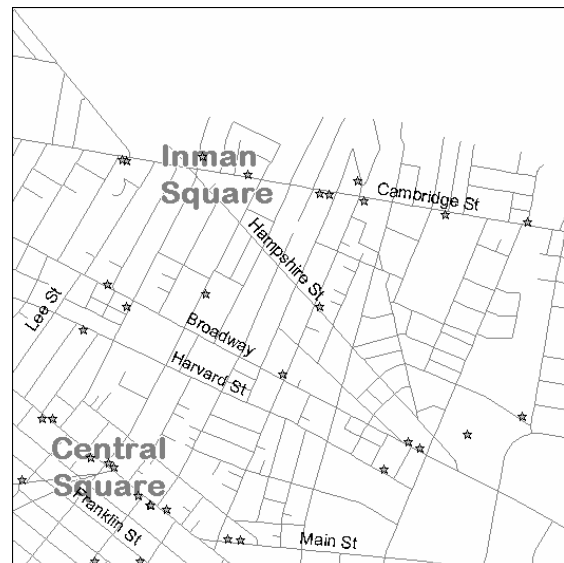
Business District	2001	2002	2003	% Change 02-03	% of Total
Harvard Square	10	28	22	-21%	16%
Inman Square/Harrington	26	21	21	n/a	16%
Central Square	23	57	18	-68%	13%
Alewife/West Cambridge	8	24	18	-25%	13%
Bay Square/Upper Broadway	10	8	15	88%	11%
Porter Square/North Cambridge	15	15	13	-13%	10%
East Cambridge/Galleria	16	26	10	-62%	8%
Kendall Square/M.I.T.	9	10	10	n/a	8%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	12	3	4	33%	3%
Massachusetts Avenue 1500–1900	6	6	3	-50%	2%

In 2002, the dominant area of concern was Central Square, with 57 commercial burglaries. These breaks were concentrated at the end of the year, and many occurred at the same office building on Massachusetts Ave. A male Cambridge resident was arrested later that year and was suspected in many of the breaks in that area. In 2003, the number of breaks in Central Square decreased dramatically by 68%, as the locations that were targeted in 2002 did not become repeat locations in 2003.

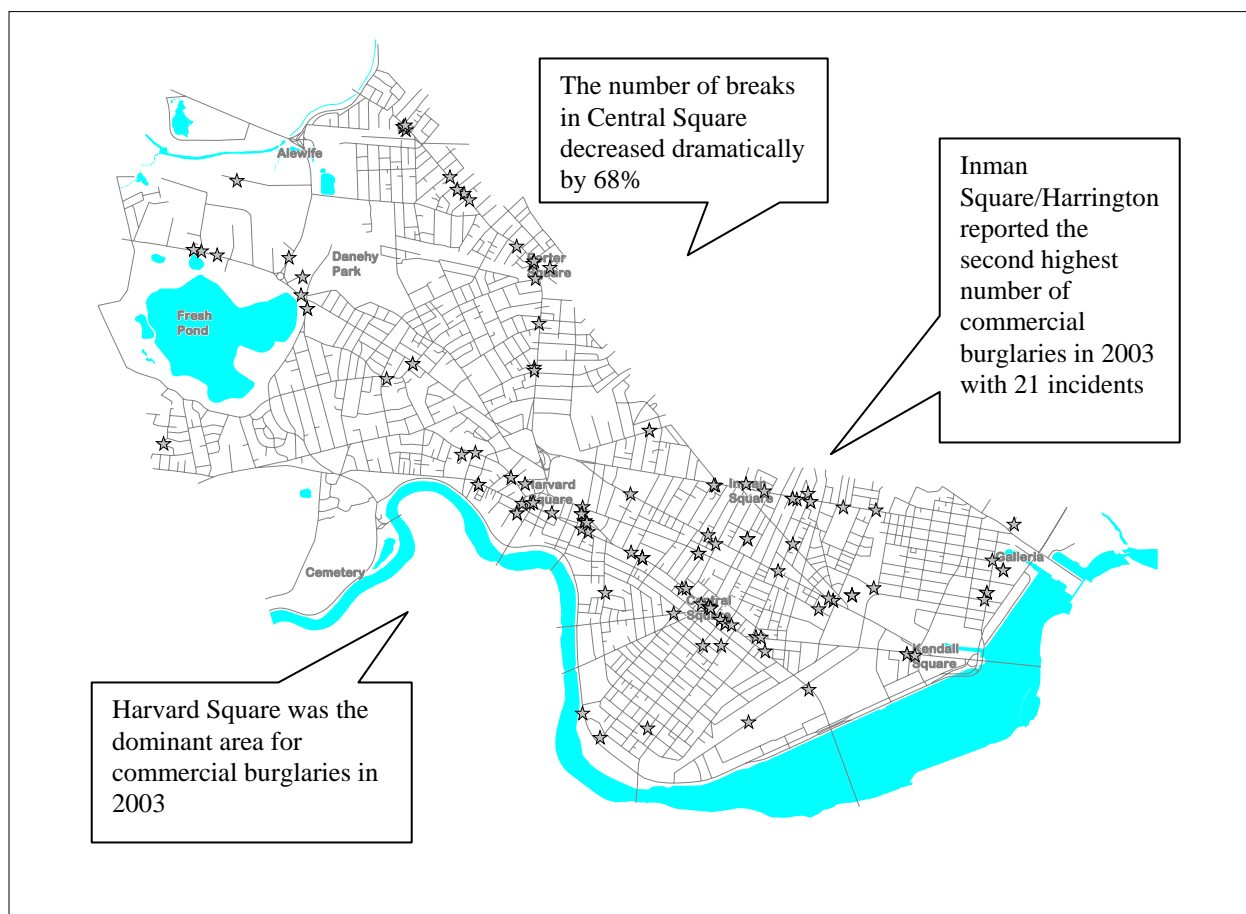


Harvard Square was the dominant area for commercial burglaries in 2003, although the total (22) was a 21% decrease from the previous year. There were no notable patterns that emerged, however, some of the locations were repeatedly hit. One beauty salon was burglarized 3 times by having their door pried open and cash and equipment taken. Eight of the incidents occurred at restaurant/bars in which cash from registers and safes were taken. The incidents in Harvard Square most commonly occurred in the early morning hours and during weekends.

Inman Square/Harrington reported the second highest number of commercial burglaries in 2003 with 21 incidents. The Islamic Society of Boston was burglarized three times. In these incidents, unknown suspects broke in through a rear window and the donation box and other cash from a locked drawer was taken. In January, four breaks were reported on the same night between the 1000 and 1100 block of Cambridge Street, where small businesses were targeted for cash. Later in September, a restaurant on Broadway was broken into twice; the unlocked safe was targeted.



Cambridge Commercial Burglaries in 2003



Preventing Commercial Burglary

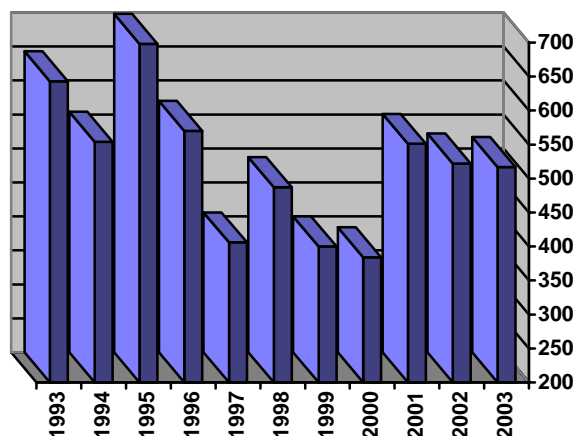


- Light all entrances, including alleys, with vandal-proof fixtures. Leave inside lights on overnight and on weekends.
- Glass doors should be made from burglar-resistant glass and should be well lit.
- Keep weeds, shrubbery, and debris away from doors and windows. Lock up tools and ladders that could invite a break or make a burglar's job easier.
- Install an alarm system, check it regularly, and investigate reasons behind any false alarms. Post a conspicuous notice that you have an alarm system.
- Leave empty cash drawers open after hours. Use a burglar-resistant safe; don't trust a fire safe to keep burglars out.
- Request a Cambridge Police Department Commercial Security Survey, which provides a general assessment of the vulnerability of your business. For more information, call (617) 349-3236.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

Residential burglaries, or “housebreaks,” are of particular concern to local police and communities because of the loss of personal security felt when one’s home is invaded and possessions are stolen. There were 517 housebreaks reported in Cambridge in 2003, down almost 1% from 2002. Housebreaks over the past ten years peaked in the mid-nineties and then dropped in the late nineties and into 2000. However, since 2001, housebreaks have been on the rise overall, due to the comeback of the professional thief. Professional thieves were a problem during the 1980’s, and were characterized by individuals or small groups who would commit 200 to 300 housebreaks per year, many in wealthy residential locations. Arrests were made of a couple of individuals who are believed to have been responsible for the majority of the housebreak patterns in Mid-Cambridge, Peabody and North Cambridge.

Residential Burglary, 1993-2003



GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

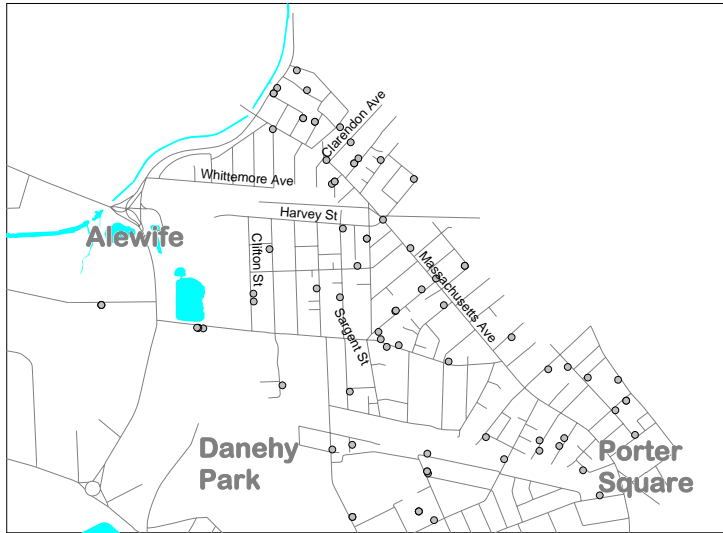
AREA	2001	2002*	2003	% Change 02-03	% of Total
Mid-Cambridge	113	86	114	323%	22%
North Cambridge	59	50	70	40%	14%
Peabody	41	55	58	6%	11%
Cambridgeport	56	65	51	-22%	10%
West Cambridge	41	35	47	34%	9%
Area 4	67	49	41	-16%	8%
Riverside	61	39	38	-3%	7%
East Cambridge	37	40	35	-13%	7%
Agassiz	26	46	24	-48%	5%
Inman/Harrington	47	37	20	-46%	4%
Strawberry Hill	5	16	15	-6%	3%
Cambridge Highlands	0	3	3	0.0%	1%
M.I.T. Area	0	0	1	n/a	0.2%

* Please note that due to reclassification these numbers may differ slightly from those reported in the UCR.

Mid-Cambridge

Mid-Cambridge experienced the highest number of housebreaks in 2003, characterized by patterns which started in late August and ran through November. The breaks involved the theft of high-priced electronics, laptops and DVD players, and entry was usually gained to residences by prying the front door. These third quarter breaks concentrated around the 200 to 300 blocks of Harvard Street and the 800 to 900 blocks of Massachusetts Avenue during the daytime. Other clusters of incidents have taken place around Trowbridge, Inman and Hancock Streets. The arrest of a Somerville resident suspected in these crimes appears to have eradicated the majority of the activity in Mid-Cambridge and Peabody.

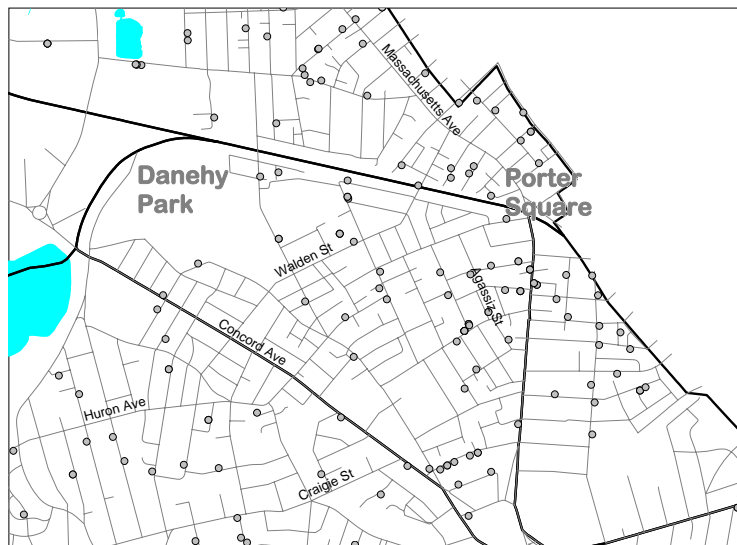




North Cambridge

North Cambridge experienced a notable housebreak pattern during the second quarter of the year. Incidents in this neighborhood took place overnight in the early morning hours, particularly between 2:00 and 4:00am. These nighttime breaks involved entry through windows, while the victims were at home sleeping. Laptops were among the most commonly targeted property. Officers also discovered what appeared to be a staging location for these perpetrators in what was thought to be a vacant residence on Rindge Avenue. Numerous people were found living there, as well as property that belonged to some of the victims of the breaks. Another possible staging location was discovered on

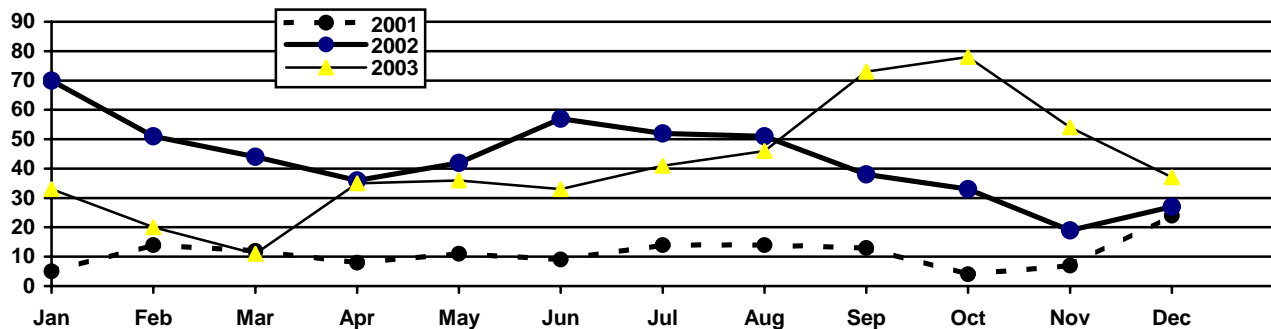
Creighton Street, where 3 homeless black males were arrested for breaking and entering and possession of stolen property.



Peabody

During 2003 there were 58 housebreaks in Peabody. This was a moderate increase of 6% over 2002 and it represented the third highest number of housebreaks in Cambridge. A pattern emerged in the Upland/Radcliffe area during the last two weeks of October, specifically on Agassiz and Lancaster Streets.

2001- 2003 MONTHLY HOUSEBREAK TOTAL COMPARISON



Preventing Housebreaks



- Try “casing” your own home, at night and during the day. Attempt to gain access to your home when the doors and windows are locked and “secure.” Make sure you have some identification on you in case your neighbors call the police.
- Doors should be made from strong wood or metal and should be locked with a deadbolt. Install guards on windows that prevent them from being raised more than a few inches.
- If you live in an apartment building that has a main entryway, make sure that security is enforced at the main door. Never prop open the door or let someone in behind you. Report residents who do this to your landlord.
- When you go away, even for the evening, leave a light or two on (perhaps on a timer) as well as the television or radio.
- Keep a small amount of cash on a table near your main door. If the money is gone when you come home, you will know immediately that someone has been in your residence.
- Consider buying motion sensor lights outside your home and out of reach so the burglars cannot unscrew the light. Also, buy variable light timers to activate lights in your home.
- Request a Cambridge Police Department Residential Security Survey, which provides a general assessment of the vulnerability of your residence. For more information, call (617) 349-6009.

Cambridge Residential Burglaries in 2003

